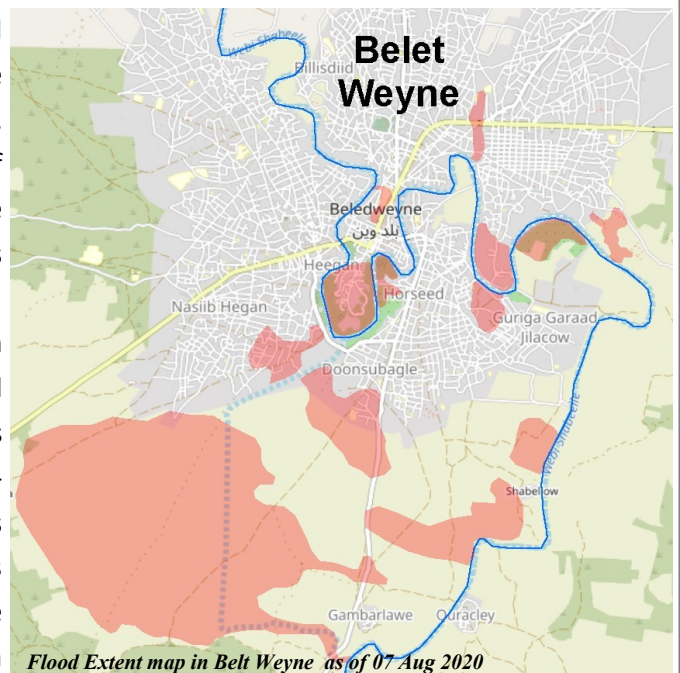


Flooding in Belet Weyne

The Ethiopian highlands have received heavy rainfall since beginning of July 2020, which has caused significant increase in Shabelle river flow in Somalia. The river level at Belet Weyne today is 6.75m surpassing the moderate level of flooding in the area. In Bulo Burti, the levels are increasing steadily and today the river level is at 5.40m, which is 1.10m meters below the moderate risk level of flooding. Flooding has been reported in Belet Weyne district following the existence of open river bank points and weak river embankments. According to analysis based on remotely sensed data, about 11 villages have been affected by the unusual floods while 6 km² of agricultural land has been inundated in the district. This follows another flood season (Gu 2020) that saw massive destruction of properties in the area and damage of crops. It is worth noting that the existence of open river breakages and weak river embankments have exacerbated the flooding. Further, there has been massive sedimentation along the Shabelle River bed in the recent past, which has

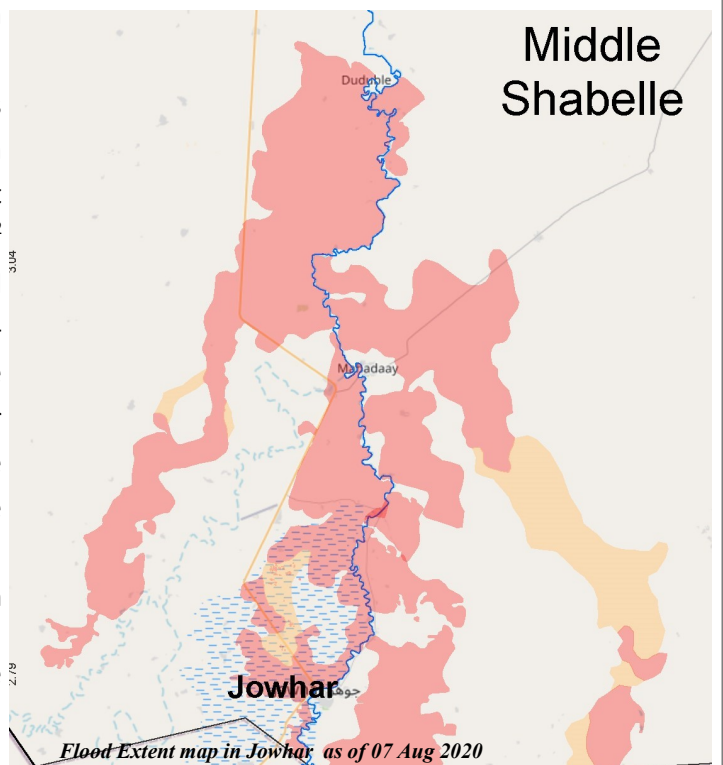


caused a rise in the riverbed with about 0.5 m. There are several ongoing efforts to mitigate the recurrent flooding in the district by the local communities, Hirshabelle authority and foreign aid. However, a long-term solution is needed which includes river basin management.

Flooding in Middle Shabelle

The current flood in Middle Shabelle region is due to moderate rains in the area and high river flows coming from the upstream reaches. River levels have remained high in the area even after the end of the Gu season in June. Today the river level at Jowhar is 5.10 m, which is slightly above the moderate flood risk level. Open riverbanks and weak river embankment in the district has accelerated flooding, leaving over 615 km² inundated and about 163 villages affected. The local authority last week embarked in evacuating flood-affected communities especially in Libiga and Hanshole villages, which were worst affected. Some other villages that have been affected severely include Buurfuule, Maseerey, Barrow Weyne, and Gumbe among others.

In Balcad district 248 km² of agricultural land has been flooded, while 67 villages have been affected. Flood situation will be sustained in the coming week give the current situation of high river levels and rains in the



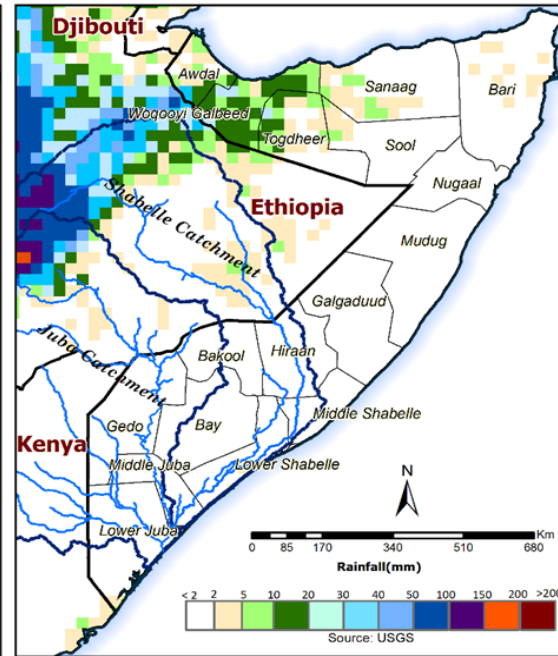
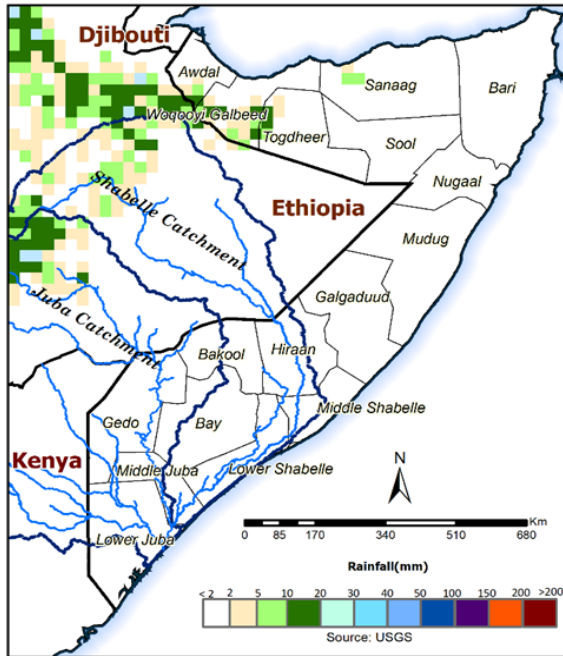
Rainfall forecast and status of river levels

Moderate to heavy rains are expected in the upper reaches of the Ethiopian highlands during this week. However, there will be a significant reduction of rainfall amounts within the Juba and Shabelle basins inside Somalia.

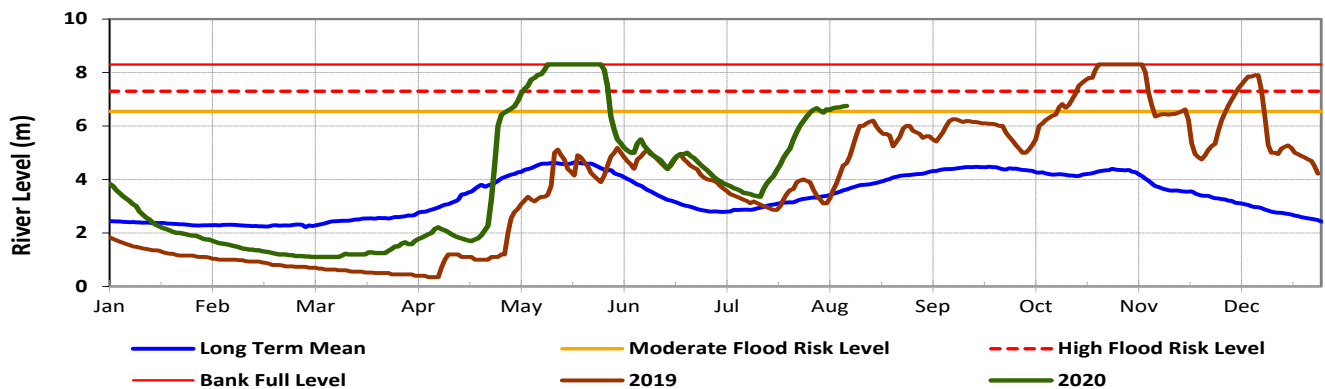
Given the forecast the high river levels will be sustained with flood likely to continue in the mid and lower reaches of the Shabelle River.

3 day cumulated rainfall forecast (10—12 Aug 2020)

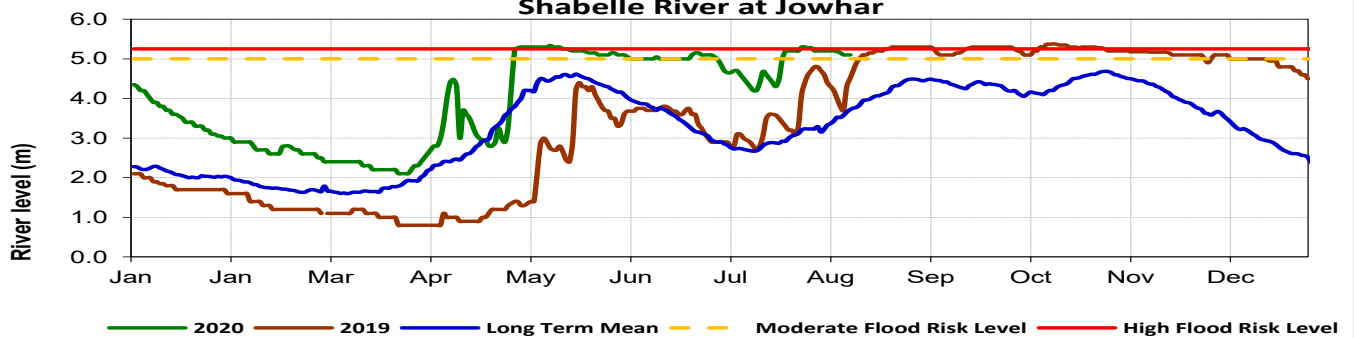
7 day cumulated rainfall forecast (10—16 Aug 2020)



Shabelle at Belet Weyne



Shabelle River at Jowhar



This update is produced by the: FAO - Somalia Water and Land Information Management—SWALIM Project.
For more information please contact swalim@fao.org or visit <http://www.faoswalim.org>

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